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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/21/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [ZL](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: MGKV01: JAPANESE SLOWLY MOVING TOWARD RECOGNITION
OF KOSOVO

REF: STATE 16319

Classified By: Ambassador J.T. Schieffer for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

¶1. (C) EAP Assistant Secretary Christopher R. Hill, accompanied by Ambassador, met February 21 with MOFA Director General for North American Affairs Shinichi Nishimiya, and, per reftel, pressed him on Japan's position regarding recognition of Kosovo, stressing the great importance of this issue to the Secretary and the United States. Nishimiya replied by assuring him that the political will exists in Tokyo to extend recognition, but that certain procedures must be followed before Japan can make its decision official and public. The direction is clear, but it will just take some time, he said.

SCHIEFFER